

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system for distributing digital images to a user, the system
2 comprising:
3 an image capture device for creating digital images;
4 at least one image server in communication with the image capture
5 device, the image server receiving and storing digital images transmitted from the
6 image capture device; and
7 at least one programmable software agent in communication with the
8 at least one image server, the at least one software agent automatically selecting a
9 subset of the digital images provided by the image server for distribution to the user.
- 1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one software
2 agent is operable to monitor the at least one image server for digital images.
- 1 3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one image
2 server is operable to push digital images to the at least one software agent.
- 1 4. The system according to claim 1, further including at least one
2 display device for displaying the digital images selected by the at least one software
3 agent.
- 1 5. The system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one software
2 agent is associated with the at least one display device.
- 1 6. The system according to claim 4, further including a central
2 processor in communication with the at least one display device.
- 1 7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the at least one software
2 agent is associated with the central processor.

1 8. The system according to claim 7, wherein the central processor
2 includes a plurality of programmable software agents corresponding to each of the
3 display devices.

1 9. The system according to claim 4, wherein the at least one display
2 device is connected to a home network.

1 10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one
2 software agent and the at least one image server are in communication via a
3 broadband network.

1 11. The system according to claim 1, wherein the image capture
2 device is in communication with the at least one image server via a wireless
3 communication link.

1 12. The system according to claim 1, wherein the image capture
2 device is in communication with the at least one image server via a synchronization
3 cradle.

1 13. The system according to claim 1, wherein the digital images
2 include metadata containing information about the digital images.

1 14. The system according to claim 13, wherein the at least one
2 software agent compares programmed criteria with the digital image metadata.

1 15. A method for distributing digital images to a user, the method
2 comprising:
3 transmitting digital images from an image capture device to at least
4 one image server;
5 receiving and storing the digital images at the at least one image
6 server; and

7 automatically selecting a subset of the digital images for distribution
8 to the user using at least one programmable software agent in communication with
9 the at least one image server.

1 16. The method according to claim 15, further including displaying
2 the digital images selected by the at least one software agent.

1 17. The method according to claim 15, further including creating the
2 digital images using the image capture device.

1 18. The method according to claim 15, further including monitoring
2 the at least one image server for digital images using the at least one software agent.

1 19. The method according to claim 15, further including pushing
2 digital images from the at least one image server to the at least one software agent.

1 20. The method according to claim 15, wherein automatically
2 selecting the subset of the digital images includes comparing programmed criteria
3 with metadata provided for the digital images.